

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-16 and 18-20 are pending. Claims 9 and 17-20 are currently canceled. Claims 1, 12, and 13 are currently amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the Specification, and in particular, claims 9 and 17-20. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-6, 9-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over JP 2002-060456 Takanobu. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Takanobu discloses that a uv initiator can be used to initiate cure. However the sole teaching of the amount of uv initiator present is over 1.5% by weight (see Ex. 3). As Applicant indicates at page 12, line 27 through page 13, line 5, when an ultraviolet initiator is present in an amount of 1.5% by weight or more, photodecomposition of the recited adhesive composition occurs. There is no teaching or suggestion in Takanobu that when an ultraviolet initiator is present this problem occurs and of a method to solve this problem (i.e., that the amount of ultraviolet initiator should be kept below 1.5% by weight when it is present in the recited adhesive composition).

The Examiner states that the amount of uv initiator taught by Takanobu in Example 3 is indistinguishable from the upper limit of 1.5wt% in Applicant's claims. In an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1, 12 and 13 to include the preferred range that the uv initiator is "present in an amount of 0.01 to 1.0% by weight."

Furthermore, while Takanobu may disclose the presence of a hindered phenol-based antioxidant, there is no teaching or suggestion that the use of an antioxidant, particularly, a hindered phenol-based antioxidant, in an amount of 0.03 to 1%, can assist in reducing the amount of deterioration of the recited adhesive composition "even upon exposure to light of a fluorescent lamp for a long period" (see, e.g., Applicant's specification at page 13, lines 10-15) in a composition that also includes levels of uv initiator present in an amount of 0.01 to 1.0% by weight.

As amended, Applicant's claims teach a combination of a selected range of uv initiator in combination with a hindered phenol-based antioxidant. As discussed in the Specification on

page 20 lines 5-15, this combination of components results in an adhesive composition, particularly in a medical tape, that even after the accelerated deterioration conditions “was free of discoloration, oozing, softening and deterioration of fluidization and found to be stable without causing glue remaining at the peeling after adhesion to skin.” Takanobu fails to teach such a combination of the uv initiator and antioxidant in the specific amounts to achieve the desired effects.

The Examiner appears to suggest that one skilled in the art would be motivated to reduce the amount of uv initiator to reduce skin irritation. Applicants respectfully submit that Takanobu teaches the elimination of the uv initiator, i.e., by e-beam curing, rather than reduction of the uv initiator.

Based on at least the above arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 10-16 under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over JP 2002-060456 Takanobu has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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